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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-seventh session
9 June-3 July 1997
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

4. Programme questions:

   (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999;

   (b) Evaluation.

5. Coordination questions:

   (a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

   (b) Revised System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development;

   (c) Implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa.

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-seventh session.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

At its thirty-sixth session, the Committee elected a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. It will be recalled that at its twenty-fourth session, the Committee decided that, henceforth, the post of Chairman, as well as the other posts on the bureau, should rotate annually among the regional groups. At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee reaffirmed that decision and adopted the following pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman: (a) Group of African States; (b) Group of Eastern European States; (c) Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; (d) Group of Western European and other States; and (e) Group of Asian States.

At its thirty-seventh session, the Committee may wish to elect the Chairman from the Group of Western European and other States in accordance with the agreed pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman, and the Rapporteur from the regional group that had occupied the post of Chairman the previous year, namely the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50 of 23 November 1979, the Committee submitted to the Council and to the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its thirty-seventh session, together with the list of documentation requested. The present provisional agenda and list of documentation also take into account decisions taken by the Council and the Assembly since the last session of the Committee.

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

In its resolution 45/254 A of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly decided to continue considering annually the administrative, structural and other aspects of the improvement of the efficiency of the Organization, and requested the Secretary-General to report accordingly.

At its thirty-fourth session, the Committee endorsed the measures on the establishment of a transparent and effective system of accountability and responsibility to be taken by 1 January 1995 and recommended that future proposals should be submitted as appropriate to the General Assembly through the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

At its thirty-fifth session, in reviewing its work methods and procedures, the Committee considered that it should be informed of the views and decisions of the Economic and Social Council regarding reports that it had submitted in accordance with its mandate. The Committee recognized the need to pay more in-depth attention to its coordinating role, which should be based on substantive issues. To that end, the Committee considered that it required a more detailed insight to the efforts of the Administrative Committee on

Coordination and other relevant departments of the United Nations in that respect. In that connection, the Committee may wish, in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, to review further its working methods and procedures, so as to make recommendations with a view to improving its efficiency and effectiveness.

Furthermore, it should be recalled that at its resumed forty-ninth session, the General Assembly in its decision 49/489 of 20 July 1995, decided to defer consideration of the documents relating to the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations and requested the Secretary-General to update his report on the restructuring of the Secretariat (A/49/336), and to apprise the Assembly of the measures taken in order to implement the recommendations contained in his report on the establishment of a transparent and effective system of accountability and responsibility (A/C.5/49/1). In its decision 50/503 of 17 September 1996, the Assembly decided to defer, once again, the consideration of the documents relating to the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations to its fifty-first session.

At its thirty-sixth session, the Committee decided, in view of the absence of a report of the Secretary-General on the administrative, structural and other aspects of the improvement of the efficiency of the Organization, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/254 A, to defer to its thirty-seventh session consideration of the question of review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

At its organizational session for 1997, on 7 February 1997, the Economic and Social Council took note of the note by the Secretary-General on reform of the United Nations and its impact on the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (E/1997/5) and decided to transmit it to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-seventh session for consideration.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the reform of the United Nations and its impact on the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (E/1997/5)

4. Programme questions

(a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

Pursuant to its terms of reference (annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976), the Committee will consider the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. In accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the Secretary-General shall provide the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with advance copies of the proposed programme budget by the end of April of the year preceding the

budgetary period; the Committee for Programme and Coordination shall prepare a report on the proposed programme budget, containing its programme recommendations and its general assessment of the related resource proposals; and it shall receive a statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of its recommendations.

It will be recalled that, in accordance with the new budget process established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, the Committee, at its thirty-sixth session, considered the outline of the proposed programme budget. However, owing to the divergent views expressed by Member States on the preliminary estimate proposed by the Secretary-General, and on the breakdown by parts of the budget and the proposed size of the contingency fund, the Committee recommended that the Assembly give further consideration to all the elements contained in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget outline for 1998-1999.

In its resolution 51/220 of 18 December 1996, on the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, the General Assembly decided on a preliminary estimate of resources for the budget and the size of the contingency fund. The Assembly reaffirmed that the outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium, promote a greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process and thereby facilitate the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the contingency fund should be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate at 1998-1999 rates. It also decided that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 should contain provisions for recosting on the basis of the existing methodology and further decided that the preliminary estimate of resources for 1998-1999 would not include a provision for special missions for which there were no legislative mandates. The Assembly also decided that the priorities for the biennium 1998-1999 were the following: (a) maintenance of international peace and security; (b) promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences; (c) development of Africa; (d) promotion of human rights; (e) effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts; (f) promotion of justice and international law; (g) disarmament; and (h) drug control, crime prevention, as well as combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Documentation

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/52/__) (in fascicle form)

(b) Evaluation

At its thirty-fourth session, the Committee adopted a timetable for evaluation, according to which it would undertake in 1997 an in-depth evaluation of the programme on statistics, and of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

At its thirty-fifth session, the Committee examined the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the United

Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (E/AC.51/1995/3 and Corr.1). In recommendation 23, on the effects of the reorganization of UNEP, the Office proposed that, considering the substantial reorganization of UNEP that had taken place in 1993 and 1994, an independent study should be carried out by the Office by the end of 1996 to review the effects of the reorganization and assess the management situation in UNEP. The Committee then recommended that a report on the study should be carried out by the Office on the effects of the reorganization of UNEP, and should be submitted to the Committee for its consideration at its thirty-seventh session. The Office has completed an assessment of the management situation in UNEP as of the end of 1996. It will be issued, in time for consideration by the Committee at its thirty-seventh session, as a document of the resumed fifty-first session of the General Assembly and will contain a review of UNEP and the administrative practices of its secretariat, including the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

In accordance with regulation 7.4 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the Committee will undertake, at its thirty-seventh session, a triennial review of the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations programme on social development. It will be recalled that, at its thirty-fourth session, the Committee reviewed the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations programme on social development and took note of the recommendations therein.

Regulation 7.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, stipulates that "an evaluation programme as well as a timetable for intergovernmental review of evaluation studies shall be proposed by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly". Rule 107.2 (c) (i) provides that the evaluation proposals submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly for its approval "shall include a list of programmes or portions of programmes to be covered on a regular, periodic basis by in-depth evaluations and a timetable indicating the years in which the related reports are due". Rule 107.2 (c) (iii) provides that "at least one in-depth evaluation shall be undertaken each year". In line with these requirements, the Committee will have before it a report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on topics for future in-depth evaluations.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on statistics (E/AC.51/1997/2)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (E/AC.51/1997/3)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on topics for future in-depth evaluations (E/AC.51/1997/4)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-fourth session on the evaluation of the United Nations programme on social development (E/AC.51/1997/5)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of the United Nations Environment Programme and the administrative practices of its secretariat, including the United Nations Office at Nairobi (A/51/___)

5. Coordination questions

(a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Committee will have before it the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1996.

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1996 (E/1997/___)

(b) Revised System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development

(c) Implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa

It may be recalled that the Committee, at its thirty-second session, recommended that, since the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development represented the contribution of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, in accordance with paragraph 39 of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, the process of updating it should be carried out after each review of the implementation of the New Agenda by the General Assembly.

The Committee recommended that revisions to the System-wide Plan of Action be submitted to its consideration in 1994, 1996 and thereafter as it might decide.

At its thirty-fourth session, the Committee reaffirmed its previous recommendations to revise the System-wide Plan of Action in 1997 and thereafter as it might decide. In that connection, the Committee requested that a progress report on the implementation of the Plan be submitted to it for consideration at its thirty-sixth session in 1996.

Accordingly, at its thirty-sixth session, the Committee considered the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (E/AC.51/1996/6 and Corr.1) and the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in

the 1990s: Towards a More Operational Approach", and the comments of the Secretary-General and the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon (A/50/885 and Add.1). The Committee took note of both reports and urged the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the World Bank, which had committed themselves to working together, by coordinating their efforts and pooling resources, and making full use of their means for media awareness, through the special initiative, to produce tangible results and requested that a report on the implementation of the special initiative be submitted to it at its spring session in 1997 and thereafter, as it might decide.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed revisions to the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (E/AC.51/1997/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa (E/AC.51/1997/7)

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

At its organizational meeting each year, the Committee selects the Joint Inspection Unit reports to be considered at its regular session of that year from a list of titles to be made available by the secretariat of the Unit.

The attention of the Committee is drawn to General Assembly resolution 42/218 of 21 December 1987, in which the Assembly requested all bodies of the United Nations system to examine closely those reports of the Joint Inspection Unit that were within their respective areas of competence and to comment, as appropriate, on the recommendations contained therein. The attention of the Committee is also drawn to Assembly resolution 45/237 of 21 December 1990.

In its resolution 48/221 of 23 December 1993, the General Assembly, inter alia, invited the Joint Inspection Unit, in its future work programmes, to put more emphasis on inspection and evaluation to ensure optimum use of funds in order to enhance the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations system. It also requested the Unit, when appropriate, to provide in its reports information on estimated financial implications or possible cost savings resulting from the implementation of the recommendations formulated therein.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly called upon the Joint Inspection Unit to follow up on the implementation of its recommendations and to include the relevant information regularly in its annual reports. The Assembly also invited the Unit to maintain a close relationship with the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the International Civil Service Commission, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Board of Auditors, the Panel of External Auditors and organizations and bodies within the United Nations system in order to ensure greater and more cost effective coordination of their respective activities for the promotion of management efficiency, greater accountability and transparency of the United Nations and other participating organizations, and requested the executive heads of the

participating organizations to increase their efforts to make detailed and timely comments on Unit reports and to ensure that their governing bodies considered those reports.

Furthermore, in paragraph 5 (e) (iii) of its resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, by which it established the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the General Assembly decided that the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit should be provided with copies of all final reports produced by the Office as well as the comments of the Secretary-General on them, and should provide the Assembly with their comments as appropriate.

At its thirty-sixth session, the Committee regretted that the comments of the Secretary-General and of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the Joint Inspection Unit report were not available at the time the Committee commenced its consideration of the report. The Committee reiterated that relevant comments of the Secretary-General and of the participating organizations were clearly mandated in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and translated in the statute of the Unit. It requested the Secretariat to make every effort to meet the deadlines for offering detailed comments on Unit reports and to ascertain that comments of the Secretary-General and of the executive heads of the participating organizations on the Unit's reports selected for consideration by the Committee be issued on time in all the official languages of the United Nations. The General Assembly, in section V of its resolution 51/219, of 18 December 1996, endorsed that recommendation of the Committee.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Committee

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, the Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-eighth session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Committee to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Committee, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-eighth session of the Committee

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-seventh session

The report of the Committee on its thirty-seventh session will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997 and to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

ANNEX I

Draft programme of work

ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1997

Friday, 9 May
(morning and afternoon)

Election of officers [1]

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work [2]

Provisional agenda and note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session (E/AC.51/1997/1 and E/AC.51/1997/L.1)

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit [6]

Selection of the report(s) to be considered by the Committee at its thirty-seventh session

THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Monday, 9 June, and
Tuesday, 10 June
(morning and afternoon)

Programme questions [4]

(b) Evaluation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on statistics (E/AC.51/1997/2)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (E/AC.51/1997/3)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on topics for future in-depth evaluation (E/AC.51/1997/4)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-fourth session on the evaluation of the United Nations programme on social development (E/AC.51/1997/5)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of the United Nations Environment Programme and the administrative practices of its secretariat, including the United Nations Office at Nairobi (A/51/___)

Wednesday, 11 June (morning and afternoon)

Coordination questions [5]

(a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1996 (E/1997/___)

(b) Revised System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed revisions to the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (E/AC.51/1997/6)

(c) Implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa (E/AC.51/1997/7)

Thursday, 12 June (morning and afternoon)

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit [6]

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations [3]

Friday, 13 June
(morning and afternoon)

Informal consultations on:

Programme questions [4]

(b) Evaluation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on statistics (E/AC.51/1997/2)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (E/AC.51/1997/3)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on topics for future in-depth evaluations (E/AC.51/1997/4)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-fourth session on the evaluation of the United Nations programme on social development (E/AC./51/1997/5)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of the United Nations Environment Programme and the administrative practices of its secretariat, including the United Nations Office at Nairobi (A/51/__)

Monday, 16 June
(morning)

Informal consultations on:

Coordination questions [5]

(a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

(b) Revised System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development

(c) Implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa

(afternoon)	Informal consultations on: Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit [6] Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations [3]
Tuesday, 17 June, and Wednesday, 18 June (morning and afternoon)	Programme questions [4] (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 Introduction and general debate
Thursday, 19 June, to Friday, 27 June (morning and afternoon)	Programme questions [4] (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 [section by section]
Monday, 30 June, and Tuesday, 1 July (morning and afternoon)	Informal consultations on: Programme questions [4] (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999
Wednesday, 2 July (morning and afternoon)	Informal consultations on: All outstanding issues
Thursday, 3 July (morning and afternoon)	Provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Committee [7] Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-seventh session [8] Closure of the thirty-seventh session

ANNEX II

Members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for 1997[a]

	Term expires on 31 December
Argentina	1999
Austria	1999
Bahamas	1997
Benin	1997
Brazil	1999
Cameroon	1999
China	1998
Congo	1999
Egypt	1998
France	1997
Germany	1999
Ghana	1997
Indonesia	1999
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1999
Japan	1998
Mexico	1997
Nicaragua	1999
Nigeria	1999
Pakistan	1999
Poland	1999
Republic of Korea	1998
Romania	1999
Russian Federation	1997
Thailand	1999
Togo	1998
Trinidad and Tobago	1999
Ukraine	1999
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1999
United States of America	1997
Uruguay	1998
Zaire	1998
Zimbabwe	1999

Notes

[a] Two seats from the Western European and Other States Group remain to be filled.